(d) what are the main reasons for short supply of cotton bales to the textile industry in the country; and

(e) what measures have been taken by the Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT); (a) The textile industry has been affected due to upward trend of prices of cotton during the current cotton season (Sept. 91-Aug. 92).

(b) The consumption of cotton by mills during the period Aug.' 91- Jan. '92 was about 51 lakh bales.

(c) During the period Aug.' 91-Jan. '92 the capacity utilisation in the spindles has marginally declined by about 1,38 per cent.

(d) The opening stock of 1991-92 cotton season was about 22.84 lakh bales as compared to 33,04 lakh bales. at the beginning of 1990-91 season.

(e) The measures taken by the Go vernment include adoption of a caut ions policy on the export of cotton and cotton yarn. There is also a proposal to import cotton, the modalities of which are being worked out.

Handing over Jute Mills on Lease

1766. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA. Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to hand over six nationalised jute mills under N.J.M.C. on lease to a private company against a payment of Rs. 30 crore; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what are the terms of lease, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT); (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Improvement in the quality of value added textiles products

1767. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRO-DIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state;

(a) what is the detailed plan of the Government to encourage and im prove the quality of value added Tex tiles products which can be used for domestic consumption and also for exports; and

(b) what is the target for total export of textiles to be increased during the next 5 years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT). (a) Government have taken various measures for modernising all sectors of Textile Industry. A statement of such measures is enclosed. *(See* below).

(b) By the terminal year of 8th Five Year Plan the export of textiles are projected to reach a level of Rs. 45,700 crores (US $ 17,577 Millions) .

Statement

Measures taken by Government for increasing and improving production of value added Textile Products.

HANDLOOM SECTOR

(i) Financial assistance for mod-ernisation of looms;

(ii) Scheme of decentralised training to train weavers on' improved technology;

(iii) Scheme of training a cadre of 'Bunkar Sevaks' for assisting weavers in transfer of improved technology;

(iv) Protection to handlooms by reserving certain varieties of cloth for their exclusive production in the handloom sector;